

Dear Sir,

I am in full support of the ARSFI position on the removal of symbol rate limits and its rebuttal of Theodore Rappaport and his supporters. As a licensed amateur radio operator, I entered this hobby with my main purpose of supporting the community in times of disaster. I train every day for scenarios that I hope never happen. I am a member of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) through my local club W4CAR. ARES has a long history of service to the citizens of America during times of disaster. Without listing every entity that we assist, I will instead mention some notable recent events supported by amateur radio operators using Winlink, voice, VOip and digital modes. Puerto Rico was demolished by Hurricane Maria and was without any meaningful communication infrastructure. Amateur radio was there to support the rescue efforts, shelter communications and ordering of supplies. Hurricane Michael devastated portions of the Florida panhandle and ham operators were there equipped with portable antennas, radios and their own survival gear to assist Red Cross shelters with ham radio email. Recently, during the Camp Fire and Woolsey Fire in California ham radio came to the assistance again using digital modes, Winlink, email and voice to supply lost communication ability due to cell phone towers being damaged from the fire. I am proud to be a member of an organization that is part of the solution rather than part of the problem. As excellent as amateur radio was in supplying communication during these and countless other disasters it would have been even better with increased symbol rate limits. Let the facts of amateur radio's support and commitment to help and support in time of need speak for itself. Let those who are ignorant of how amateur radio is used learn and join us.

Respectfully,

John T. Butcher KN4BLF